

SOCIETY INFORMATION.

VISIT TO SLOPERS' WORKS.

Thanks to the efforts of Stephen Steere the Society was given the chance of a visit to Slopers' works. This was due to the generosity of Mr. Cockayne, the manager. His predecessor had refused to allow such visits. He specified a Friday afternoon and not more than five visitors. So on the 23rd March five of us assembled at West Hampstead tube station, which is a stone's throw from Slopers'. The lucky five were four Society officials and Stephen. There was no time to notify members - and in any case your officials deserve some reward!

The visit proved as interesting and enjoyable as we had hoped. We saw the machines in a variety of sizes and the current dies used to perforate stamps. Stamp perforation is only a small part of the business now, but we were fortunate enough to see a lady perforating "18" (London Borough of Sutton).

Mr. Cockayne generously gave each of us a copy of the short History published in 1939, and also a "proof book" each. The latter are quite fascinating, although nearly all the dies were for non-philatelic use. It is proposed that these "proof books" be donated to the Society: they are too fragile to send out, but copies will be made and placed in the library whence they can be borrowed (but only by UK members - others could buy further copies from the Librarian).

On a personal note, the previous evening to the visit, I was sorting a batch of perfins received from a charity: on a piece were a 19p perfinned TWA and a 1p perforated TW. I suspected that the latter was a modified TWA to take account of the dropping of "Authority" from Thames Water Authority. The next day at Slopers' there was this die with the "A" engraved on the plate scratched out - and yes the A pins had been removed as I had suspected.

I am sure many of you will be most envious of the lucky five. We have been promised a further visit again on a Friday afternoon at 2pm in August. Anyone wishing to go please advise the Secretary: if, as seems probable, more than five apply lots will be drawn and the lucky five notified. So if you apply and do

not hear I fear you will have been unlucky. It would help if you gave me a telephone number so that I am sure I have got the message across.
